

Claims

We claim:

1. 1. A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:
 - 3 receiving an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the upgrade
 - 4 object including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program;
 - 5 and
 - 6 executing the instruction set with the instruction processing program.
1. 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising instructing the instruction processing program
2 to execute the instruction set.
1. 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is associated with one or more
2 prerequisites; and further comprising determining if the one or more prerequisites have been met.
1. 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising reporting that the instruction set has been
2 executed.
1. 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is suitable for transmission by
2 electronic mail.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction set comprises binary instructions.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the instruction set comprises a script.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the instruction processing program is adapted to compile
2 and execute the script.

10 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object requires the instruction processing
1 program to be executed by the computer system.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the upgrade object is not independently executable.

1 12. A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:
3 creating an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the upgrade object
4 including an instruction set adapted for use by the script processor; and
5 transmitting the upgrade object to the computer system; and
6 instructing an end user to execute the instruction set with the instruction processing
7 program.

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1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the upgrade object presents the end user with
2 instructions to perform a task.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the upgrade object prompts the end user to indicate that
2 the task has been performed.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the instruction set comprises a script and wherein the
2 instruction processing program is adapted to compile and execute the script.

1 16. A method of upgrading a computer program on a computer system, comprising:
2 (I) installing a script processing program on the computer system;
3 (ii) receiving an upgrade object associated with the computer program, the
4 upgrade object including a script adapted for use by the script processing and a
5 prerequisite field containing one or more prerequisites; and
6 (iii) instructing the computer system to process the installation object, whereby the
7 upgrade object causes the computer system to:
8 determine if the one or more prerequisites have been met; and
9 instructing the script processor to execute the script with the script
10 processor; and
11 reporting that the script has been executed.

17. A computer program product, comprising:

(a) a upgrade object configured to upgrade a software program on a computer

system having an instruction processing program, the upgrade object including an

instruction set capable of causing the instruction processing program to perform one or

more upgrade tasks; and

more upgrade tasks; and

(b) a signal bearing media bearing the upgrade object.

18. A method of installing a computer program on a computer system, the computer system

including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:

receiving an installation object associated with the computer program, the installation

object including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program;

and

executing the instruction set with the instruction processing program.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the instruction set comprises a script and wherein the

instruction processing program is adapted to compile and execute the script.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the upgrade object is associated with one or more

prerequisites; and further comprising determining if the one or more prerequisites have been met.

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1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein the upgrade object comprises a script suitable for
2 transmission by electronic mail.

1 23. A method of installing a computer program on a computer system, the computer system
2 including an instruction processing program, the method comprising:
3 creating an installation object associated with the computer program, the upgrade object
4 including an instruction set adapted for use by the instruction processing program; and
5 transmitting the installation object to the computer program; and
6 instructing an end user to execute the instruction set with the instruction processing
7 program.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the installation object presents the end user with
2 instructions to perform a task.